

WHERE'S THE BEEF?



Republicans are worried that **the American people are going to ask “Where’s the beef?”** this week about the GOP “reform” bill. That bill is designed to get the GOP through the next election not to change the culture of corruption. In contrast, the Democrats’ “Honest Leadership, Open Government Act” would make a real difference in how business is done in Washington. Republicans have forbidden a fair up-or-down vote on the stronger Democratic bill.

After tough talk from Republicans, Americans are asking: “Where’s the Beef?”

“I want the House to move quickly and in a bipartisan fashion to get this done. We have a duty to do everything we can to keep the trust and confidence of our constituents.” [Speaker Hastert, News Conference, 1/17/06]

“I believe that we are in a position today where we can come forward with some bold things.” [Rules Committee Chairman David Dreier, News Conference, 1/17/06]

	Democratic Proposal**	Republican Proposal
Bans Travel from Lobbyists?	YES	NO (places a temporary ban)
Bans Meals and Gifts from Lobbyists?	YES	NO
Toughens Public Disclosure of Lobbyist Activity?	YES	NOT ENOUGH
Closes Revolving Door?	YES	NO
Bans Members from Using Corporate Jets?	YES	NO
Makes Earmarks More Public?	YES	NOT COMPREHENSIVE
Toughens Penalties for Pay-to-Play Schemes, Like the “K Street Project”?	YES	NO
Prohibits “Dead of Night” Special Interest Provisions?	YES	NO
Voting Reforms to Restore Democracy in the House?	YES	NO
Prohibits Cronyism in Appointments and Contracting?	YES	NO
Requires Disclosure of Grassroots Lobbying?	YES	NO

**Both proposals stop Congressional pensions for felons and require members and senior staff to disclose outside job negotiations.